

Lincoln has continued to hold this Nation to its promises. And we will never relent. We will never rest until those promises are met.

The convictions that have guided our history are also at issue in our world. We also face some questions in our time: Do the promises of the Declaration apply beyond the culture that produced it? Are some, because of birth or background, destined to live in tyranny, or do all, regardless of birth or background, deserve to live in freedom? Americans have no right or calling to impose our own form of government on others. Yet, American interests and values are both served by standing for liberty in every part of the world.

Our interests are served when former enemies become democratic partners, because free governments do not support terror or seek to conquer their neighbors. Our interests are served by the spread of democratic societies because free societies reward the hopes of their citizens, instead of feeding the hatreds that lead to violence. Our deepest values are also served when we take our part in freedom's advance, when the chains of millions are broken and the captives are set free, because we are honored to serve the cause that gave us birth.

Sometimes the progress of liberty comes gradually, like water that cuts through stone. Sometimes progress comes like a wildfire, kindled by example and courage. We see that example and courage today in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Georgia, and Iraq. We believe that people in Zimbabwe and Iran and Lebanon and beyond have the same hopes, the same rights, and the same future of self-government. The principles of the Declaration still inspire, and the words of the Declaration are forever true. So we will stick to it. We will stand firmly by it.

Every generation strives to define the lessons of Abraham Lincoln, and that is part of our tribute to the man himself. None of us can claim his legacy as our own, but all of us can learn from the faith that guided him. He trusted in freedom and in the wisdom of the Founders, even in the darkest hours. That trust has helped Americans carry on, even after the second day of Gettysburg, even on December 8, 1941, even on September the 12th, 2001. Whenever freedom

is challenged, the proper response is to go forward with confidence in freedom's power.

Lincoln also trusted in the ways of Providence, the working of an unseen power. He knew the course of Providence is not always what we hope or ask or expect, but he trusted still. In his example, we are reminded to be patient and humble, knowing that God's purpose and God's justice will break forth in time.

Abraham Lincoln had a streak of melancholy in him. He said our short lives are like "the break of the wave." But the wave of his life is still felt in our world. The Union he saved still thanks him. The people he freed still honor him. And here in the place he called home, Springfield, Illinois, we proudly dedicate the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:59 a.m. in Union Square Park. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Norton Smith, executive director, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and his wife, Patti; Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, Secretary of State Jesse White, and State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka of Illinois; Mayor Timothy J. Davlin of Springfield, IL; Jim Edgar, president, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation; Brian P. Lamb, chairman and chief executive officer, C-SPAN; Mihan Lee, grand prize winner, C-SPAN Lincoln Essay Contest; and Rev. Gordon McLean, First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, IL.

Remarks on Arrival From Springfield

April 19, 2005

Pope Benedict XVI

Laura and I offer our congratulations to Pope Benedict XVI. He's a man of great wisdom and knowledge. He's a man who serves the Lord. We remember well his sermon at the Pope's funeral in Rome, how his words touched our hearts and the hearts of millions. We join with our fellow citizens and millions around the world who pray for continued strength and wisdom as His Holiness leads the Catholic Church.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:31 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a joyous Passover.

Statement on the Tenth Anniversary of the Oklahoma City Bombing

April 19, 2005

The tenth anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing takes us back to the terrible tragedy that touched all Americans and took the lives of so many from Oklahoma City. We remember the malice that led to the death of 168 innocent people in the Murrah Federal Building. For the survivors of this crime and for the families of the dead, the pain goes on. We also remember the many acts of courage and kindness we saw in the midst of that horror. Oklahoma City will always be one of those places in our national memory where the worst and the best both came to pass. We pray for the lives that were lost that day, and we pray for their families. We ask God for strength and peace for those who lost so much.

Message on the Observance of Passover, 5765

April 19, 2005

I send greetings to those observing Passover, beginning at sundown on April 23.

This celebration marks the historic exodus of the Israelites from Pharaoh's oppression more than 3,000 years ago. During Passover, Jews around the world gather with family and friends to share the story of God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery to freedom. Through songs and prayers, they remember the blessings and mercy of a just and loving God. By passing this story from generation to generation, they teach the triumph of faith over tyranny and celebrate God's promise of freedom.

The lesson of this story is timeless and reminds us that even in the face of struggle, hope endures. As we work to bring hope to the oppressed, we recall the words of the Psalmist, which are read at the Seder meal: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7888—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2005

April 19, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we enjoy the great freedoms of our country, we are mindful of our obligation to pass on to our children the values that sustain our liberty and our democracy. On Education and Sharing Day, we reaffirm our commitment to teach young people the lessons they need to preserve and strengthen our Nation, and to reach as far as their vision and character can take them.

Education and Sharing Day honors the memory of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who established education and outreach centers that offer social services and humanitarian aid around the world. Commemorating his life and legacy teaches the next generation that a single life of conscience and purpose can touch and lift up many lives. By helping to heal a broken heart, surrounding a friend with love, feeding the hungry, or providing shelter for the homeless, we can change America for the better, one heart, one soul, and one conscience at a time.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 20, 2005, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon all our citizens to dedicate their time and talents to help our rising generation grow into caring and responsible adults.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of